UNITED
NATIONS

A E

General Assembly

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/160
E/1991/66
23 May 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Item 78 (c) of the preliminary list*
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Second regular session of 1991
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Progress of the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997) during the period 1990-1991

Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Acknowledging the cultural dimension of development

1. The four objectives of the World Decade for Cultural Development are as follows: (1) acknowledging the cultural dimension of development; (2) affirming and enriching cultural identities; (3) broadening participation in culture; (4) promoting international cultural cooperation (resolution 41/187). The first objective - from which the other three flow - is compelling, because of the increased pressure of the human challenges of development.

2. On various occasions, Governments and international organizations have recognized the need to take this cultural dimension into account in development projects. It has been reaffirmed, as integrated development, "human development", cultural rights, human rights or "adjustment with a human face", by many ministerial conferences on development and research projects by organizations in the United Nations system on major global economic and social trends and policies (E/1990/81).

3. The Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in 1986 - the year in which the World Decade for Cultural Development was proclaimed - already described development as a process which aims at the improvement of the well-being of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom. The Declaration recognizes a right to development as well as civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

4. On the basis of the findings of work carried out by organizations in the United Nations system, it can be said that when popular pressure forces changes in economic and political institutions found to be inadequate, as was the case in many countries, acknowledgement of these rights seems to be inevitable in the restructuring of national economies. Such acknowledgement is then reflected in the decentralization of decision-making and economic planning, the democratization of political life and effective popular participation in socio-economic institutions (E/1990/81, paras. 121 and 124). Thus, the cultural dimension of development is ensured through respect for and the exercise of the right to development.

5. However, while the principle has been accepted, acknowledgement of the cultural dimension of development becomes difficult when existing models are not sufficiently reliable or are too culturally specific to be transposed. Hence, the implementation of development projects in accordance with the objectives of the World Decade for Cultural Development calls for inventiveness and creativity.

6. UNESCO studies on "culture and economics" and on "culture and development" showed that the interaction of the two was stimulating to

development and that, in each case considered, they should be methodically accompanied by appropriate strategic measures. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) has conducted studies which would seem to show that development based on participation gives full play to individual and group initiatives and promotes a relatively egalitarian distribution of incomes, and access to common services and facilities. Local-level participation in resource management is crucial for sustainable development.

7. The Human Development Report 1990 published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), states that: "people must be at the centre of all development. The purpose of development is to offer people more options. One of their options is access to income - not as an end in itself but as a means to acquiring human well-being. But there are other options as well, including long life, knowledge, political freedom, personal security, community participation and guaranteed human rights. People cannot be reduced to a single dimension as economic creatures ... [Consequently,] human development [must] not be measured by income alone, but by a more comprehensive ... human development index [HDI] - reflecting life expectancy, literacy and command over the resources to enjoy a decent standard of living".

8. Thus, the research findings of the system stress the human dimension of development, in accordance with the objectives of the World Decade for Cultural Development. However, the elaboration of innovative approaches - both theoretical and pragmatic - still requires thought. UNESCO is thus pursuing methodological studies with a view to fostering the integration of cultural parameters into development plans and projects.

B. Recommendations

9. Member States, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and private institutions and individuals should help to increase awareness, at all levels of decision-making and activity, of the need to acknowledge the cultural dimension of development projects. Thought and research must be devoted to cultural indicators so that development projects can be geared to cultural identities, real needs, the receptiveness of the communities concerned and their ability to participate.

II. MEASURES TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES

A. Introduction

10. Three years after the Decade was officially launched (21 January 1988), the following observations are in order: (1) a great many Member States have taken measures to enhance their programmes of cultural activities or institutional aspects of their cultural policies; (2) a limited number of Member States have taken administrative measures to ensure that all

development projects contain a cultural component or have launched activities where cultural factors are integrated into development sectors other than the social and cultural sectors; and (3) a relatively large number of Member States have not yet implemented the Plan of Action for the Decade or, at least, have not so informed UNESCO.

B. Measures taken at national level

11. As Member States are the managers of the implementation of the World Decade for Cultural Development, conditions for proper planning and the interdisciplinary structuring of development must exist at the national level to interlink sectoral administrations which oversee national development in general. Member States were therefore invited to set up national committees for the Decade or, if they preferred, appropriate equivalent coordinating bodies or structures.

12. Sixty-three Member States have informed UNESCO of the establishment of their national committees for the World Decade for Cultural Development. Where national committees exist and are very active, it has been possible for a variety of initiatives to be undertaken and for innovative interdisciplinary projects to emerge, resources have been mobilized and Governments have participated. In order to build awareness in all development sectors of the role of culture, national committees must also call on representatives of such sectors as agriculture, industry, the economy and health.

13. For the period 1990-1991, nearly 400 projects were submitted to UNESCO by approximately 100 Member States, i.e., three times as many as during the previous biennium. UNESCO recognized 94 of these projects as Decade activities and granted a total of $1 million in financial support. The seal of the Decade - recognition of a project by UNESCO as a Decade activity - was granted to 153 other projects without financial support.

14. Many projects proposed at the national level include activities normally carried out by States within the framework of their cultural programmes and policies. Moreover, most initiatives have been taken either directly by administrations, almost exclusively by institutions for cultural affairs, or at the request of national committees for the World Decade for Cultural Development or of the National Commissions for UNESCO.

15. The projects proposed can be divided into five categories:

(a) Projects to promote artistic creation and the development of handicrafts (19.8 per cent): 1/ festivals (arts, film and photography) and training in the arts (establishment of schools, experimental and/or advanced training workshops);

(b) Projects to promote the cultural and natural heritage (25.2 per cent): creation or restoration of museum complexes, establishment of conservatories (music and dance), safeguarding of literary works,

restoration of historic gardens of former palaces, films, cinematographic museums and the development of historic districts and cities, traditional medicines and pharmacopoeia;

(c) Research and study projects on development-related themes (31.7 per cent): the cultural dimension of development (seminars on: the implementation of the World Decade for Cultural Development, methodology for acknowledging culture in development, cultural planning, cultural aspects of development planning), culture and democracy, education for democracy, economic integration and culture, tourism and development (culture and architecture), new technologies and cultural identities, architecture and cultural development (creative habitat);

(d) Multidimensional subregional or even regional projects, the result of an integrated, highly interdisciplinary approach to development (10.8 per cent): establishment of outstanding centres of learning (development of academies), research centres for cultural policy (training of administrators, post-university cultural development, awareness-building programmes), establishment of reference centres and data banks on cultural development, establishment of a television channel without borders, and establishment of a cultural information centre for developing countries;

(e) Projects (12.5 per cent) for the establishment or strengthening of infrastructures for cultural activities (cultural centres, libraries and assembly of various cultural production units) or the organization of events (thematic exhibits and the observance of anniversaries of distinguished men and women of culture).

16. On the basis of this sampling, it can be noted that (a) in general, projects are initiated by or in the framework of cultural institutions, hence the predominance of strictly cultural objectives, (b) Member States must seek a balance among the various dimensions of a project so as to acknowledge the cultural dimension in an integrated approach to national development, and (c) to that end, non-cultural development centres must be encouraged to participate in the World Decade for Cultural Development and plans must include projects likely to receive support from United Nations organizations and programmes and non-governmental organizations playing complementary roles.

C. Measures taken at regional level

17. In Africa, the Conference of African Ministers of Culture organized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held its third session from 14 to 18 May 1990 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on the theme, "The organization of an African cultural space". The agenda included topics such as: the African cultural common market, the medium-term African Cultural Development Plan (1991-1995) and the financing of cultural development programmes.

18. The African cultural common market, which is to go into effect in 1993 under the terms of the draft Treaty establishing the African Economic

Community, is to comprise four production sectors: (a) the book trade and general publishing; (b) the sound and picture industries; (c) crafts and applied arts; and (d) tourism. The medium-term African Cultural Development Plan (1991-1995) covers priority fields such as: the languages of Africa, the history of Africa, cultural policies, cooperation for development in southern Africa, and museums and monuments. The wish was expressed at the Conference that the financing of cultural development programmes should be largely through funds mobilizable in Africa supplemented by external inputs, and that the OAU Inter-African Cultural Fund should be strengthened for the purpose.

19. The OAU Member States will join in the preparation and implementation of the major project, "Iron roads in Africa". Furthermore, in 1992 OAU will organize an African regional conference bringing together the ministers in charge of the economic and cultural sectors for a mid-term assessment of the Cultural Development Decade in Africa.

20. The Conference took note of the following events and activities that had regional or interregional scope: the first Biennale of Arts and Letters, held from 12 to 18 December 1990 in Dakar, Senegal; completion of the Gorée-Almadies Memorial in Senegal; a draft sociocultural study on the cosmic element Earth by Cameroon; a project for the establishment of a training centre for the cultural industries in Zambia; the opening in Zimbabwe of an African training centre for the performing arts.

21. The third conference of Ministers of Culture and officials in charge of cultural policies in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Mexico in September 1990. Its final declaration underscored the need for active cooperation by the countries of the region in the following areas: research on cultural policy, heritage preservation, communication, the cultural industries, cultural tourism, and the artistic heritage. A plan of action was adopted providing for several projects: a Latin American common market for books; a common market for films; a meeting on cultural policy in the audiovisual field in Mexico in March 1991; the establishment of a Latin American and Caribbean endowment for culture and the arts and of an institute for Latin American integration.

22. A subregional conference of Central American Ministers of Culture was convened in November 1990, in Panama, to consider issues relating to regional cooperation in the field of culture and communications. It identified and approved seven areas of activity, distributed as follows among the seven countries of the subregion. Panama, the overall coordinator of projects for a three-year period, will develop programmes on culture as an instrument for peace, unity and development. Guatemala will be responsible for the organization and exchange of art exhibits and the dissemination of literary works. Costa Rica will establish a cultural network for Central America with a view to setting up a cultural data bank for the region. El Salvador will train administrators and promoters of culture. Honduras will organize a meeting on the art and folklore of Central America, with the support of the television networks of the subregion.

23. A subregional project, "Maya World", aims to safeguard and enhance the artistic, cultural and natural heritage of the region and to promote education, creativity and communication. A meeting of scientific experts may be held on the project in 1991, with support from UNESCO, other intergovernmental agencies and the Getty Foundation.

24. At an international conference on creativity in September 1990, in Venezuela, international experts met to consider the educational, social, cultural, scientific and artistic aspects of creativity. Also, a regional meeting of women writers from the Caribbean was organized by the University of the West Indies in April 1990 in Trinidad and Tobago to consider the place and role of women in Caribbean society, and the problems of language, oral tradition and national identity in the multilingual and multicultural Caribbean region. A regional symposium on cultural tourism and sociocultural changes was held in Trinidad in June 1990 by the Caribbean Tourism Organization, an affiliate of the World Tourism Organization, in collaboration with the Barbados National Commission for UNESCO. The objective of the symposium was to identify and define the social and cultural impact of tourism on traditional life in the Caribbean, to study its negative effects, to undertake research with a view to influencing the policies of the various countries on cultural tourism and ensuring their implementation.

25. The Arab States are continuing their joint effort to implement the comprehensive plan for Arab culture today and tomorrow, adopted in 1985 by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), as their contribution to the World Decade for Cultural Development. On Algeria's initiative, a meeting of the National Committees for the Decade from the region will enable concerted action to be taken on joint projects, among them the "Caravan routes" project and a project on the study of trade and cultural relations between North Africa and the countries of West and Central Africa from the tenth to the eighteenth centuries. Within the framework of this comprehensive plan, UNESCO is preparing a Plan for the Promotion of Arab Culture ("Plan Arabia"). The main projects under Plan Arabia will cover areas of activity corresponding to two of the objectives of the Decade, namely, acknowledging the cultural dimension of development and promoting international cultural cooperation. This project has already aroused the interest of many public and private partners. Prince Sultan Bin Abdul-Aziz, for instance, has already donated $250,000 for its implementation.

26. In Asia and the Pacific the National Committees for the Decade met in Bali, Indonesia, from 13 to 16 June 1990. Organized with UNESCO support by the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO, the meeting brought together about 40 participants representing 16 Member States from Asia and the Pacific.

27. The goal of the meeting was to consider, country by country, the activities undertaken in the region in connection with the World Decade; to prepare a strategy for relaunching regional cultural cooperation; to propose specific activities; and to have the Member States of the region exchange the results of their experiences.

28. This meeting showed that the Decade is having an important impact in the region and at the national level. Regional cooperation is more than ever a necessity if the countries concerned are to come together to consider the problems they share and the possible solutions. To that end, the delegates approved six draft regional projects for submission to UNESCO. Among the major topics considered were: culture and tourism; culture, development and the environment; and culture and the disabled. A regional study on the impact of cultural factors on successful socio-economic development projects was also proposed. It is expected that these projects will eventually be incorporated into the international programme for the Decade.

29. An interregional project on the "Baroque World" has been proposed to UNESCO by some Member States (France, Ecuador and Peru) as a contribution to the commemoration of the five-hundredth anniversary of the encounter between two worlds. The Project, to be executed in cooperation with the Council of Europe, envisions bringing together the Eastern and Western European countries, the Latin American and Caribbean countries and the Philippines in intercultural talks on the subject of a common cultural heritage. The objectives of this project are: to improve knowledge of the various aspects of the Baroque Movement; to strengthen intercultural dialogue and promote a better appreciation of cultural identities stemming from a common artistic heritage; to foster the creation of contemporary works; and to promote cultural tourism.

30. The project, supported by several countries, has already led to initiatives in Member States. UNESCO plans to conduct a series of activities such as: an inventory of existing studies, an interactive videodisc that will include a data and image bank on the baroque and a multidisciplinary atlas. As a co-production with television networks, UNESCO will make a film on the "Baroque World", which will be broadcast as a 15-part series.

31. In addition, as a contribution to the major interregional projects for the Decade, two research projects have dealt with particular aspects of Buddhist culture in connection with the major "Silk roads" project. Some European projects have to do with the cultural aspects of the new political configuration of Europe and involve, for instance, the study of the European cultural identity. Symposia and studies will help to clarify some aspects of cultural development in today's European society.

D. Recommendations

32. The number and variety of projects attest to the interest that Member States have in the World Decade for Cultural Development. For an integrated approach to development in which the cultural dimension would be taken into account, however, it would undoubtedly be useful to set up national committees, and interdisciplinary and intersectoral structures to select projects and coordinate their application. Such national committees or bodies should be able to inspire initiatives focussing essentially on the first objective of the World Decade for Cultural Development, in all sectors of development, and ensure their coordination.

33. Moreover, at the regional level, a generation of subregional or regional projects, some of them with an interregional dimension, seems to be developing. The Intergovernmental Committee for the World Decade for Development established by the UNESCO General Conference recommends that efforts should be concentrated on far-reaching projects that could serve as models and have visibility and regional or interregional scope. International cultural cooperation in general would gain by that.

III. MEASURES TAKEN BY ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Introduction

34. United Nations General Assembly resolution 41/187 requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO to ensure coordination of the activities implemented in the United Nations system under the Decade. To that end a report is submitted on a regular basis to meetings of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Decade was held on 23 January 1991 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

35. In general terms, the organizations and programmes of the United Nations system are endeavouring to take account of human, social and cultural factors in the majority of their programmes, strategies and activities. Following the proclamation of the World Decade for Cultural Development some organizations and programmes announced their intention, starting in 1989, when their new biennial programmes began to develop, specific activities under the Decade, an approach which had been recommended by ACC (ACC/1988/2/Add.2) and confirmed by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session with its adoption of resolution 45/189. The resolution, inter alia, recommends that the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system consider including activities relating to the Decade in the programme for the biennium 1992-1993, and requests them to coordinate those activities.

36. The programmes implemented by the organizations of the United Nations system are dependent on the international context and the situations obtaining in various countries (for example, increased poverty, social inequality, failure to respect human rights, and marginalization of broad segments of society).

37. The report on main research findings of the system in major global economic and social trends, policies and emerging issues (E/1990/81) demonstrates the importance for United Nations system organizations of integrating the social dimension of development into their programmes. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development will conduct studies on the social impact of the economic crisis in Africa and Latin America and on the formulation of concepts and criteria appropriate to rapidly evolving social and economic circumstances.

38. The results of research activities conducted by international organizations demonstrate that interdependence will continue to increase during the 1990s - with a concomitant increase in popular participation in development activities in order to benefit from such activities, and with a strengthening of cultural identities. Participation by all in development can be encouraged only by the decentralization of decision-making and the democratization of political life. In this connection it is regrettable that the first objective of the World Decade for Cultural Development, namely, acknowledging the cultural dimension of development, has not been adequately taken into account in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

B. Measures taken by UNESCO

39. UNESCO has continued to draw the attention of the international community to the need to take account of the cultural dimension in development projects. Thus, during the period 1990-1995, UNESCO activities will attempt to reconcile culture and creativity with economic production.

40. Under the World Decade for Cultural Development, activities have been included in UNESCO's programme for the period 1990-1991, some of which could be implemented in cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system:

(a) Studies on the cultural dimension of development, on the effects of contemporary social change on economic, social and cultural life, and on the conditions necessary for greater participation by marginalized groups (including migrants and disadvantaged communities in urban areas) in development and cultural life;

(b) Following a seminar organized in cooperation with UNDP and the International Centre for Bantu Civilizations (CICIBA) in Gabon (Libreville, 24-28 April 1989) on the integration of culture into development planning, and an interregional symposium on the nature of the interaction between modernization processes and traditional cultural values in different societies (Paris, 19-23 June 1989), two interregional symposia on the interaction between cultural factors and the dimensions of development were held, one in Thailand (Bangkok, 2-5 July 1990) and the other in Venezuela (Caracas, 3-7 December 1990);

(c) Methodological studies intended to promote the integration of cultural parameters into development projects; forward-looking studies designed to define more accurately the problem of the interaction between cultural development, cultural identities and multicultural societies, the conclusions of which were submitted to the eleventh World Conference of the World Futurology Federation (Budapest, 27-31 May 1991); and a study on culture, the economy and the community in Europe, conducted in cooperation with several Member States.

41. UNESCO has also initiated activities relating to the second objective of the World Decade for Cultural Development, affirming and enriching cultural identities, so as to:

(a) Facilitate mutual knowledge and appreciation among cultures through a new generation of subregional, regional or interregional intercultural projects such as the Integral Study of the Silk Roads - Roads of Dialogue (relations between East and West), or the commemoration of the Five-Hundredth Anniversary of the Encounter between Two Worlds (the encounter between Europe and America in 1492 and its historical repercussions);

(b) Safeguard and promote the cultural resources that constitute the physical and non-physical heritage of each community and of all humankind. In addition to its campaigns to safeguard major historic sites, UNESCO is stepping up its activity in defence of non-physical heritage (traditions, values, and works of the mind), which serves as an objective reference for cultural identities and as a cultural determinant for some development parameters;

(c) Increase the effectiveness of UNESCO's work to preserve cultural heritage. Considerable progress has been made in the field of standardization (strengthening of national and international legal instruments: 115 States are parties to the World Heritage Convention), international safeguarding campaigns (Mohenjo Daro in Pakistan, the Kathmandu valley in Nepal and Sana'a in Yemen), and training (carried out in cooperation with, among others, the Central Ancient Monuments Office of Norway, the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM).

42. The International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (created by UNESCO's General Conference in 1974) has supported over 300 projects in 90 countries since 1977. Among these activities, a feasibility study on "Crafts development potential in the outer islands and forestry regions of Indonesia" carried out for the FAO's Forestry Operations Department, has led to the preparation of an Asian regional project devoted to promoting cultural factors in the management of tropical forest resources, based on interdisciplinary cooperation between the Fund, FAO and UNESCO's "Man in the Biosphere" programme.

43. Other significant cooperative ventures include "Media Save Art '91", an international conference and festival (Rome, June 1991), to promote better interaction between the media and professionals responsible for conserving the cultural heritage, organized by the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the Government of Italy. Mention may also be made of "Arts from the Arctic", a travelling exhibition project of and for the Sami people of Scandinavia, Alaska, Greenland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, organized by the Sami Artists Union in Norway; of "Arts from the Frontline", a collection of contemporary works by artists from the front-line States, which will tour the capitals of those southern African countries, and of "Sargasso", a pilot

film for an indigenous Caribbean television series produced by the University of the West Indies.

44. The situation facing the international community today has a cultural dimension in which identity crises have particular importance. UNESCO's studies and activities on the changing status and role of such major social groups and units as women, young people and the family could constitute a considerable contribution to the search for solutions to the problems in question. The objective here is to foster new identity-building processes so that the status of these social groups and units is updated and they take an active part in development. Below are some of the activities undertaken by UNESCO in that regard:

(a) Starting from the goals set out in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Promotion of Women (Nairobi, 1985) and from the System-Wide Medium-Term Plan for Women and Development (1990-1995), the activities developed are intended to foster women's access to and participation in social, professional and political education, duties and responsibilities, and to promote their role in the transmission of cultural traditions and values within their community; in addition to these activities, women are being trained to use new communications technologies and to produce video cassettes illustrating their cultural role;

(b) The conference of non-governmental youth organizations, a forum for dialogue between UNESCO and 75 international and regional non-governmental youth organizations devoted two meetings to a collective analysis of the approach of young people and their organizations to the World Decade for Cultural Development. The results of the consultations were as follows:

(i) Emphasis was laid on the role to be played by young people both in the transmission of dominant cultural models and in the creation of new values;

(ii) It was observed that the problems of youth and of cultural development overlapped. The young people constantly emphasized the need to expand the traditional notion of culture so as to include the general behaviour of the individual, and they tended to accentuate cultural forms that develop parallel to or at the fringes of traditional culture and to favour the development of unconventional lifestyles.

45. The objective of "broadening participation in culture" is achieved through standardization studies and production activities, so it may be assumed that creation or creativity in the arts and in science and technology is the most expressive and the most decisive means of individual or collective participation in cultural life and in development.

(a) Accordingly, educational activities designed to awaken the child's intelligence and to develop his or her imagination and creative skills, or to perfect the creative techniques of all kinds of creators, have been strengthened or launched;

(b) In the context of the 10-year plan for crafts development innovative creativity is being encouraged by a UNESCO prize, awarded for the first time at the Ouagadougou International Crafts Exhibition in November 1990; a methodological guide to crafts has been developed;

(c) In collaboration with the International Federation of Actors (IFA), a paper has been prepared on the systematic application in Europe of the Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist. Specific documents will be prepared in 1991 for Asia, in 1992 for Africa and in 1993 for Latin America. An agreement has been concluded on cooperation in designing a questionnaire for the creation of an international information system on the recommendation concerning the status of the artist, on the initiative of UNESCO, by experts from various countries (Cameroon, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary and Sweden) and intergovernmental and non-governmental or private institutions (the International Labour Office, the Council of Europe, the European Economic Community, IFA, the International Federation of Musicians and the International Association of Art).

46. The Intergovernmental Committee of the World Decade for Cultural Development (36 States members of UNESCO) held its second regular session from 5 to 9 February 1990 and a first special session from 4 to 8 February 1991. The Committee monitors and coordinates activities to implement the Plan of Action for the Decade and makes recommendations on the subject. Mindful of the need for linkage between the World Decade for Cultural Development and the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Committee participated in the elaboration of the UNESCO contribution to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

47. The Committee intends to encourage the efforts of Member States at the regional level, in particular, in conjunction with the international organizations concerned and the National Committees, to accelerate the progress of the World Decade for Cultural Development. It also adopted recommendations concerning the possible setting up of an international programme for the World Decade for Cultural Development, on the basis of the revised report submitted to it by the Director-General in accordance with resolution 3.4 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-fifth session. After subsequently considering the report, the UNESCO Executive Board, which approved the proposal to set up such a programme, invited the Director-General to submit proposals on that subject in the context of the UNESCO draft programme and budget for 1992-1993 (26 C/5), for transmission to the General Conference at its twenty-sixth session (October-November 1991) for consideration and decision. Pursuant to that decision, document 26 C/5 presents a number of proposals and alternatives on the subject. The programme, which would be financed from extrabudgetary resources, could be launched in 1992 if adopted by the General Conference.

48. As part of its effort to raise public awareness at the international level, the UNESCO Executive Board, on the suggestion of the Intergovernmental Committee, recommended that the Director-General should submit to the General

Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-sixth session, for consideration and decision, the question of proclaiming a "World Day for Cultural Development" (Day of All the World's Cultures) that would be celebrated on 31 May each year. In addition, the Intergovernmental Committee recommended that the UNESCO Executive Board should invite the Director-General to outline the terms of reference and the modalities required for a world report on culture and development, and to take appropriate measures to that end, in consultation with Member States and in recognition of the mandate of UNESCO for culture and the responsibility of the United Nations for economic and social development. The Committee also recommended that the Executive Board should invite the Director-General to present a full report on the matter to the General Conference at its twenty-sixth session.

49. In addition, pursuant to the decisions of the UNESCO Executive Board (decision 135 EX/5.3.3), the Director-General of UNESCO will submit to the General Conference at its twenty-sixth session proposals concerning inter alia the preparation of joint activities with other institutions of the United Nations system in the framework of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, as well as the preparation of the mid-term review of the World Decade for Cultural Development. In that respect, the Intergovernmental Committee, expressing concern that the International Development Strategy had not adequately taken into account the cultural dimension of development, recommended that the Director-General, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, should further strengthen his efforts to improve coordination among the agencies and programmes of the United Nations system with respect to the recognition of the cultural dimension of development. The Committee also recommended that the Director-General, when making his proposals, in consultation with the Secretary-General, on the modalities of the mid-term review of the World Decade for Cultural Development, should consider a number of suggestions concerning preparatory work for the mid-term review (organization of regional meetings under the auspices of UNESCO and the regional economic commissions), the drafting of a working document and a debate during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, so as to consider that document and conduct the mid-term review.

50. UNESCO has, furthermore, mobilized international cooperation for the intercultural projects "Revival of the Library of Alexandria" and the commemoration in 1992 of the "Five-hundredth Anniversary of the Encounter between Two Worlds". It is also responsible for setting up the United Nations Pavilion at the 1992 Universal Exhibition at Seville.

C. Measures taken by other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system

51. Several organizations of the United Nations system have undertaken or continued efforts to take human and social factors into account in their spheres of competence.

52. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in addition to the measures and activities envisaged during the period 1987-1988, which are continuing (A/44/284), has taken steps with regard to the first two objectives, by advocating, on the one hand, a more comprehensive approach to development and, on the other hand, greater participation by women, with emphasis being given to education and training programmes designed for them.

53. Concrete measures in that regard could include the following: providing technical assistance to the Governments of Member States so that they can finalize projects to facilitate access by women to education at all levels, and refocusing training programmes on agriculture and home economics. A systematic emphasis is placed on integrating institutional factors relating to population and social factors into sectoral policies.

54. With regard to the second objective of the Decade, emphasis will be placed on integrating the role of women in the development process, particularly in agriculture. In that connection, case-studies will be undertaken and manuals will be prepared in order to assist decision-makers, consultants and technical assistance personnel at the national and international levels in integrating questions relating to the role of women in development into the planning, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes.

55. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) considers that all its copyright activities are designed to promote cultural development (particularly the preparation of model legislation in the copyright field) and cooperation with developing countries.

56. During the first six months of 1990, WIPO granted training fellowships to 29 officials from 27 developing countries. Moreover, nine training courses, workshops or seminars were organized at the national, regional and international levels during that period. Ten missions were carried out in developing countries, including the first WIPO mission to newly independent Namibia.

57. The World Health Organization (WHO) is endeavouring to integrate social and cultural dimensions into its primary health care strategies and its objective of health for all by the year 2000. Accordingly, it has:

(a) Sought to promote, in a number of its programmes, the concept of the interrelation between the health of women and their socio-economic status;

(b) Collaborated with the United Nations Children's Fund and UNESCO in all areas relating to the growth and development of the child (for example, adapting immunization services to the cultural specificities of ethnic groups);

(c) Given utmost attention to ensuring that health education is compatible with local cultures and customs, and so on.

58. Within its second medium-term perspective for the period 1990-1995, the United Nations University (UNU) is undertaking a programme on culture and development which focuses on the first objective of the World Decade. This programme began with the international conference organized in Fukuoka, Japan, from 5 to 7 March 1990, which focused on the cultural dimension of development in the specific context of the Asia-Pacific region. A follow-up international symposium on "The present status and future perspectives of Asia-Pacific research: issues of culture and development" took place in Fukuoka from 26 to 28 September 1990, with the aim of identifying the current trends and lacunae in research on culture and development and examining the questions relating to area studies (interdisciplinarity, value judgement and policy orientation, and research by insiders versus outsiders). It also reviewed the needs and prospects for regional cooperation in scientific research in the field of culture and development. The initiative in Asia and the Pacific will be followed in other regions of the world through the organization of meetings on the "cultural dimension of development" in Latin America, Africa, Europe, the Arab world and North America, with a view to designing a global programme. UNU is also planning to organize a meeting of authors on the theme of "Culture, development, democracy and the role of intellectuals".

59. The World Bank, pursuant to consultations with UNESCO, took initiatives to ensure that references to cultural identity are expressly included in projects approved by the Bank. Pilot projects will thus be launched in African subregions. For example, the World Bank and UNESCO carried out a joint mission to Guinea and Togo in order to examine ways in which sociocultural factors could be taken into account in the projects under consideration. Likewise, the World Bank and UNDP are studying the possibility of including cultural parameters in the terms of reference of the projects.

60. The objectives sought by the World Bank which coincide with those of the World Decade for Cultural Development are as follows: to achieve a better understanding of the links between economic and cultural conditions, decision-making processes in local institutions, and development outcomes; to help policy-makers to foresee the particular kinds of problems and opportunities which tend to arise when they deal with "spontaneous institutions" under different cultural conditions and at different levels of development; and to begin to develop rough estimates of the degree of "readiness" of spontaneous institutions (SNs) for untied grants-in-aid or loans.

61. The working method contemplated by the World Bank would consist in: identifying a small number of SNs in each participating country, stratified by region, economic function, and other factors; making a small block grant to each SN, averaging perhaps $10,000, with no strings or consultations attached; contracting with local research institutions to collect information on the local context of each SN (economic, cultural, etc.), what it decides to do with the money and how, and the results; and, through small case-studies and cross-case analysis, examining the relationships between economic and cultural factors, decision-making, and outcomes.

62. The World Bank considers that "in general, the quality of development work can be measured by its relevance and by its effectiveness in sustaining development efforts". 2/ So says the Technical Department's Business Plan, and rightly so. Many development efforts in Africa have been criticized as being culturally irrelevant, and therefore unsustained. Africans and their international collaborators urgently need a better understanding of how the continent's enormous cultural diversity might be taken advantage of, by tailoring development projects and policies to that diversity. Of course this means local participation, but participation comes in many forms (political, economic, social) and, so to speak, levels. Simple schemes of "participation" have failed widely in Africa and elsewhere. We need a better understanding of what kinds of local institutions should participate and under what circumstances, so as to achieve good development results.

63. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has already supported some 100 projects relating to various aspects of the World Decade for Cultural Development, ranging from the reorganization of the Museum of the Institute for Ethiopian Studies to the preservation of national cultural sites in Bangladesh, the revival of the Library of Alexandria in Egypt, and artistic and indigenous traditions in Trinidad and Tobago.

64. UNDP has specifically supported the link which UNESCO has established between cultural heritage and development in a rapidly changing socio-economic environment. Thus, in conjunction with its fifth programming cycle, UNDP has stressed human development from the point of view of individual diversity and cultural freedom, as well as the importance of minority languages and the mother tongue for the preservation of the cultural heritage.

65. Although it was not formally issued as part of the World Decade for Cultural Development, the Human Development Report 1990, which UNDP prepared in collaboration with several organizations of the United Nations system and other agencies, can be regarded as an important contribution to the innovative approach to development which the first objective of the Decade calls for.

66. In its effort to promote sociocultural concerns in its overall assistance activities, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has developed gender impact training for its staff. Social issues also form part of the emergency management training offered by UNHCR to its staff on a regular basis. The role of UNHCR in the development of cultural aspects vis-à-vis the refugee communities is developed within the normal assistance programmes, especially through those concerning social services and educational provisions.

67. In societies where strong cultural constraints govern the role of ethnic, religious and social minorities, as well as women, identifying and meeting the needs of these groups of refugees can prove extremely difficult. UNHCR's social services work involves ensuring that the needs of the most disadvantaged refugee groups are not overlooked. Promoting refugee associations and leadership based on traditional structures and encouraging representation of women in camp committees and management are also important

aspects of enriching and affirming the cultural identities of refugees. While this is difficult in some refugee situations, success has been achieved in others.

68. Community-oriented training has also been part of UNHCR activities, which are mostly related to cultural traits and the reproduction of the cultural experience of the refugee. The consideration of traditional values and the cultural realities of these communities in the training of parasocial workers, community outreach workers and health visitors has been one of the effective means of incorporating social and cultural concerns of refugees in overall assistance programme planning, implementation and evaluation.

69. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/Habitat), whose primary mission is to improve human settlements, fully supports the objectives of the Decade. Since improving the environment and building a house or a neighbourhood are the physical expression of a society's culture, integrating cultural parameters into human-settlements programmes substantially enhances their success. Most UNCHS projects have a cultural component; for instance, in 1986, a project was carried out to rehabilitate archaeological and historic sites in Tunisia in order to revive tourism in that country; in 1987, a technical assistance project was launched to protect and develop the "Zanzibar Stone Tower" in the United Republic of Tanzania.

70. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has always maintained that human beings are at the centre of development. UNFPA has also emphasized this in its recent publication entitled "Safeguarding the Future" wherein the important links between population, environment, resources, urbanization, migration and the education of women were identified. Another major emphasis is that cultural values must be taken seriously in planning for a safe future.

71. With regard to the first objective of the Decade, UNFPA advocates a comprehensive approach to development where all segments of population and all aspects of the target audience are addressed and studied in order to ensure effective programming, in areas of population and development. A meeting was convened by UNFPA as a follow-up to the decision of the thirty-fifth session of the Governing Council in 1988 which called for "encouragement of sociocultural research for use in the formulation and implementation of projects, notably in maternal and child health-family planning (MCH/FP) and information, education and communication (IEC)". This important decision of the Governing Council was intended to "ensure that UNFPA-supported programmes, particularly those in MCH/FP and IEC, take into account the cultural values and traditions of people and their levels of awareness of population and development issues".

72. Concerning the second objective of the Decade, UNFPA is continuing its efforts to ensure the full integration of women in population and development, and is trying to fill the current gaps in knowledge about the situation of rural populations and the behaviour and needs of women.

73. Baseline surveys were undertaken in a number of countries to collect information on sociocultural characteristics as well as knowledge, attitudes and practices concerning health, sanitation, nutrition and reproductive behaviour. Sociocultural case-studies were carried out for use in the design of the in-school curriculum in population education. UNFPA provided assistance to research studies specifically oriented towards identifying sociocultural factors influencing family planning programmes and population policies. UNFPA's review has indicated that the role of religion, adaptation to new technologies and services utilization are also significant sociocultural factors affecting fertility. Thus, UNFPA has taken concrete measures to ensure better and more systematic consideration of cultural values in the population field such as:

(a) Bridging the gap between academics, community planners, and policy-makers and front-line workers in the field;

(b) Development of more refined data-collection techniques so as to allow in-depth analysis of sociocultural variables and to ensure better knowledge and effective formulation of population policies and programmes;

(c) Devising alternative conceptual frameworks for examining potential connections between fertility-related expectations and behaviours and perceived effects of contraceptive use at the micro-level (that of the individual), as well as at the macro-level (large kin groups and communities).

D. Recommendations

74. The proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly of the World Decade for Cultural Development, pursuant to its Plan of Action, in principle commits the entire system. Therefore, it is important for the organizations, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system to promote the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade (E/1986/L.30) in their respective spheres of competence, through greater inter-agency cooperation. To that end, they should:

(a) Include, in accordance with General Assembly resolution A/45/189, activities relating to the Decade in their biennial programme for 1992-1993, particularly with regard to integrating the cultural dimension into development strategies and projects, and should take appropriate steps to coordinate such activities (for example, by appointing a focal point or establishing a structure to coordinate their Decade activities);

(b) Carry out joint activities and projects in keeping with the interrelation between the spheres of competence of the various organizations and the objectives of the Decade;

(c) Strengthen cooperation with UNESCO by taking part in the Decade follow-up and coordination meetings (particularly those of the Intergovernmental Committee and the inter-agency steering committee for the

World Decade for Cultural Development), and in the activities for which the General Conference of UNESCO could take the initiative at its twenty-sixth session (for example, the International Programme for the World Decade for Cultural Development, or the World Day for Cultural Development).

IV. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN THOSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Introduction

75. Activities undertaken by international organizations other than those of the United Nations system may be looked at from various points of view. In quantity, they are fewer than those submitted to UNESCO for the previous biennium: 53 projects submitted by 44 non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations. However, in the light of the activities; relevance to the objectives of the World Decade for Cultural Development, their more limited number seems to be the result of a necessary selection made by the organizations concerned, and to indicate a certain qualitative improvement in their participation.

76. Private parties - that is, individuals, private institutions, associations, or clubs - submitted more plans for activities under the World Decade for Cultural Development than during the previous biennium: 37 projects were submitted by 30 private parties. The projects fell into the same subject categories as those presented by Member States and international organizations.

B. Intergovernmental organizations

77. Thirteen organizations submitted projects under the World Decade for Cultural Development, of which 17 were recognized as Decade activities by UNESCO. From the point of view of the projects' relevance to the Decade, it should be emphasized that intergovernmental organizations have sought to take the cultural dimension more fully into consideration in their Decade efforts.

78. In Africa, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) has been striving to ensure that the African region will participate in the World Decade for Cultural Development. The International Centre for Bantu Civilizations has cooperated with UNESCO and/or the European Economic Community (EEC) on the cultural dimension of development through projects in various fields, for instance: agriculture and traditional pharmacopoeia and medicines. The Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) has been turning to folk-tales for insights into traditional knowledge of how to ensure that the environment is respected and cope with such natural disasters as drought and desertification. The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) is planning a subregional symposium on the acknowledgement of Bantu cultures as reference points and factors in the economic integration of the subregion. The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (ISESCO) is planning to develop programmes for the World Decade for Cultural Development in cooperation with UNESCO.

79. In other regions, intergovernmental organizations have not provided information on the measures or activities they have undertaken for the period 1990-1991. However, it should be noted that in Latin America and the Caribbean, where various regular cultural events take place, the Latin American Economic System (SELA) submitted a project on intellectual property to UNESCO. In addition, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) may contribute to the implementation of Plan Arabia when it is adopted by UNESCO.

80. In Europe, the impetus of recent events in the Eastern European countries seems conducive to pan-European cooperation, which is being fostered judiciously by the programmes of European organizations. The work being done and the programme being developed by the Council of Europe relating to the assessment of national cultural policies, the creation of training programmes for cultural administrators, economic interdependence, etc., will greatly help in achieving the goals of the World Decade for Cultural Development.

81. The EEC and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP), in renewing the Lomé agreements by signing the Lomé IV Convention, in which adknowledgement of the cultural dimension of development is reaffirmed by a special chapter on cultural cooperation, have made one of the most important interregional contributions to the World Decade for Cultural Development. The Convention is being implemented by the Foundation for Cultural Cooperation (ACP-EEC) through seminars and workshops on a variety of topics as well as through incentive programmes for artistic creation, creativity in general, and training and development of officials for the administration and management of cultural development.

C. International non-governmental organizations

82. Most of the projects implemented by non-governmental organizations under the Decade are designed to establish a close link between culture, development and international cooperation. That is also true of the Europe-World Conference on cultural dialogue (Lisbon, 8-10 October 1990), held on the initiative of the European Cultural Centre with the support of UNESCO and the Portuguese Government. Other no less original projects are being initiated and implemented in individual communities, through a partnership that renews the spirit and practice of technical cooperation; they stress participation and incorporate data relating to cultural identify, local knowledge and know-how, human and material resources as well as performance and the ability to take charge of projects.

83. Out of 28 projects presented by non-governmental organizations, 18 have been recognized as Decade activities. However, these projects must still be systematically matched with measures taken by Governments so as to avoid any fragmentation of development effort in a given beneficiary State. The

establishment of networks among non-governmental organizations operating in a given country, and between them and the national committee for the Decade, would enable them to make their fullest possible contribution to the national development plan and to harmonize that plan with the World Decade for Cultural Development.

D. Recommendations

84. Through their programmes, intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations are in the best position to provide the required momentum, coordination and pooling of available resources for the implementation of regional projects with a similar focus under the World Decade for Cultural Development. The progress of the Decade will be smoother and its assessment enhanced if international organizations seek to act in concert with one another.

85. Given their role in fostering international cooperation and consultation, international organizations should continue their endeavour to launch projects designed to bring together innovative initiatives pursued by Member States through development policies and strategies in order to overcome the economic crisis and to meet technological and industrial challenges, as well as challenges in the areas of the environment and population growth, and thus to achieve endogenous cultural development that is lasting and humane.

V. MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE WORLD DECADE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

86. At its forty-fourth session, the United Nations General Assembly, having considered the progress report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of the Director-General of UNESCO (A/44/284-E/1989/109), expressed, in its resolution 44/238 of 22 December 1989, its support for the recommendation in paragraph 92 of the report, that is, for the conduct of an evaluation at the mid-point of the Decade, in 1993, under the auspices of the United Nations and UNESCO, in order to evaluate the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Director-General of UNESCO, to obtain the views of Governments, appropriate organs and organizations of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the objectives and scope of such a global mid-term review.

87. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/238, the Secretary-General of the United Nations requested Member States, 39 organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and seven departments of the United Nations Secretariat to suggest the possible form of such a mid-term review and its possible scope and objectives. The results, as indicated in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council (A/45/277-E/1990/77 and Add.1) were the following:

(a) Replies have been received from only 10 Governments, 12 organizations and agencies, and 1 department. Moreover, out of those 23 replies, only 15 contained the information requested by the Secretary-General. These circumstances made it difficult to arrive at definitive conclusions that would represent the more or less complete view of the world community on the subject. 3/

(b) Nevertheless, the analysis of the replies available gives tentative indications of the views of Governments and the organizations of the United Nations system.

(c) In their replies almost all the Governments and organizations supported in principle the idea of conducting a mid-Decade review and evaluation of the status of implementation of the goals and objectives of the Decade. Three countries and two organizations supported the convening for that purpose in 1993 of an international conference with the participation of ministers of culture, prominent figures in the field of culture or experts in the area. There was a suggestion that the Intergovernmental Committee for the Decade, established within UNESCO, serve as the preparatory body for such a conference.

(d) Five replies contained proposals to carry out a mid-Decade evaluation in the form of seminars, meetings of experts, consultations and other forums at the regional level under the auspices of the United Nations and UNESCO. Some Governments and organizations believed that such regional forums could precede or follow an international event and thus contribute to the global review of the Decade.

(e) Some Governments mentioned the slow start of the Decade, referring to the very broad spectrum of objectives included in the Plan of Action, as well as to the lack of appropriate financial resources. Bearing that in mind they suggested that a mid-Decade review should concentrate on reconsidering some of the objectives and setting out concrete tasks for the second half of the Decade.

(f) Much attention was paid in the replies to the first objective of the Decade, namely, the acknowledgement of cultural dimensions of development, and thus to the link of the Cultural Development Decade with the Fourth United Nations development decade, the goals and objectives of which should include cultural aspects of development.

(g) Among the objectives to be concentrated upon during a mid-Decade review, the Governments mentioned in the first place such problems as cultural aspects of the socio-economic development of developing countries, especially of least developed States, questions of cultural identity, cultural property and heritage, problems of many ethnic groups within a single State, and so on.

(h) The organizations of the United Nations system suggested the inclusion in the mid-Decade review of objectives and issues that are of concern to them in the context of their activities in their respective fields of competence.

88. Having considered the Secretary-General's report, at its forty-fifth session the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/189 in which it reaffirmed its support for a mid-term review to assess the progress made in implementing the Plan of Action for the Decade and to make proposals to further strengthen activities in this area. It invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO to include specific proposals on the modalities of a mid-term review, taking into account the views of Governments, in the second biennial report on progress in the implementation of the World Decade for Cultural Development, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council. In addition, the General Assembly invited the regional commissions, in consultation with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to carry out, within existing resources, an evaluation of the cultural factors influencing the development of the cultural sector as a potential creator of jobs and generator of income, for consideration at the mid-term review of the Decade.

89. In follow-up to that resolution, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of UNESCO are therefore proposing to the United Nations General Assembly the following:

(a) The global mid-term review of the World Decade for Cultural Development would take the form of a special debate on the matter, to be held in 1993 at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

(b) Preparations for the global review would take the form of the work by the regional commissions specified in resolution 45/189 (an evaluation of the cultural factors influencing the development of the cultural sector) and a consultation, in writing, of Member States and intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations to be carried out by UNESCO in 1992 in order to evaluate the implementation of the Decade;

(c) A summary evaluation report would be drawn up by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the views expressed by Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in their replies, and of the input of the United Nations regional commissions, and would be the main working paper for the mid-term review. The report, before being discussed at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, would be considered at a regular session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the World Decade for Cultural Development, whose statutes provide that it "shall be responsible, in UNESCO's fields of competence, for stimulating, following and evaluating the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Decade";

(d) The mid-term review of the Decade would be focused on preparing a provisional evaluation of the implementation of the Decade, reviewing some of its goals, selecting a more limited number of priorities, and defining specific tasks for the second phase of the Decade, so as to give greater impetus to the implementation of its Plan of Action within the United Nations system and to strengthen cooperation among the organizations of the system.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

90. Three years into the World Decade for Cultural Development, in spite of a persistent and worsening international economic crisis, awareness continues to grow at every level within the international community. With respect to the main prerequisites for development, there appears to be an increasing tendency to make human rights (the rights to liberty and to participation) the standard for development, or even the criterion for new alliances and new forms of solidarity. That gives reason to believe that the World Decade for Cultural Development could become a real moral commitment in the international community. However, in keeping with the very spirit of the Decade and its objectives, the terms of such a moral commitment will have to be defined and evaluated in the light of each cultural community's own traditions and values and must be compatible with its vision of the world.

91. Although the World Decade for Cultural Development was launched at a time when not all members of the international community were ready to recognize its timeliness and relevance, perhaps because they underestimated its advantages and the constraints of the crisis, participation in the Decade is now of a kind and a degree that suggest that a consensus may have emerged on the necessity, if not the urgency, of making the individual, the community and culture the basis of development, in keeping with the Decade's objectives.

92. The changes that are transforming today's world into a global village, where all men and women are not only neighbours but are economically and culturally interdependent, call for a reaffirmation of the importance of the World Decade for Cultural Development.

Notes

1/ The percentages given concern all projects submitted to UNESCO for the period 1990-1991 (see para. 13).

2/ Africa Technical Department, Business Plan - FY92-94: Setting the Course for the Technical Department, 22 October 1990.

3/ The Secretary-General subsequently received replies from eight Governments, which he reported on to the General Assembly in document A/45/277/Add.1-E/1990/77/Add.1.